

National Archery in the Schools Program®

The National Archery in the Schools Program® (NASP®) is an introductory level, international-style target archery skills program. It is designed to be conducted during school hours as part of the physical education curriculum for grades 4-12. The program aims to improve student skill, interest and participation in this traditional, lifetime shooting sport. NASP® also provides opportunities for students to develop their interest in archery by encouraging them to participate in local, state, national and world tournaments. Students world-wide are taught the same techniques using the same universal fit state-of-the-art equipment and they shoot from the same distances at the same color face style targets. The program was launched in Kentucky in 2002 and adopted by Wisconsin in 2005. Wisconsin-NASP® is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Workshops for teachers

NASP® certifies physical education teachers to incorporate this nationally-renowned archery skills program into their class curriculum. Two different workshops were developed to certify physical education teachers and other interested instructors to present NASP® lessons that are safe for students, instructors, bystanders, and the facility. Most teachers choose to attend the NASP® "Basic Archery Instructors" workshop (BAI—8 hours) where they are certified to teach the National Archery in the Schools Program to their students. For individuals with greater personal experience and interest in archery, they may enroll in the NASP® "Basic Archery Instructor Trainers" workshop (BAIT—24 hours) where they are certified to train physical education teachers how to conduct this program. To date, more than 22,000 people have been certified by NASP®.

During the workshops, teachers learn how to set up and operate a safe archery range in their school gymnasium. They are taught the whistle signals that are used to move students to various taped lines on the range floor to "get bows," "shoot," and "go get arrows." They learn how to help students determine their "Dominant Eye" and how to make the "String Bow®" training aid to teach the "Eleven Steps to Archery Success" (archer form, shot execution, and follow-through). Teachers receive extensive advice on how to constructively coach their students in a positive, supportive and rewarding atmosphere. Finally, sessions are conducted to explain inspection, maintenance and operation of the bows and arrows. Teachers may then select from units of study for grades 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12. These units were co-written by experts in the fields of education, natural resource conservation and target archery to meet state and national education standards.